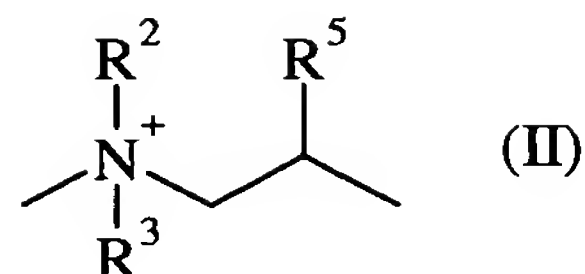
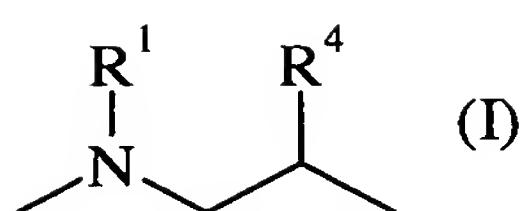


We claim:-

1. A process for the treatment of leather, comprising the following process steps:
  - (a) Application of at least one cationic or amphoteric aqueous treatment composition to leather by roll coating and/or roll application and/or spray application and subsequently
  - (b) treatment of the leather with an anionic leather treatment composition in a drum.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the leather is dried between process step (a) and (b) and/or wherein the leather resulting from process step (b) is dried.
3. A process for the treatment of leather, comprising the following process steps:
  - (a) Application of at least one cationic or amphoteric aqueous treatment composition to leather by roll coating and/or roll application and/or spray application with simultaneous use of organic and/or inorganic pigments and/or anionic leather treatment compositions,
  - (b) if appropriate, drying of the leather treated in this manner.
4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the cationic or amphoteric aqueous treatment composition used in process step (a) is an epichlorohydrinamine polymer, the polymer having a weight average molar mass of from  $1 \cdot 10^2$  to  $2 \cdot 10^5$  g/mol.
5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the cationic or amphoteric aqueous treatment composition used in process step (a) is composed of amine units and epichlorohydrin units, the ratio of amine units to epichlorohydrin units being from 0.8 : 1.2 to 1.2 : 0.8.
6. A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the amine units are composed of from 0.5 to 0.8 part of dimethylaminopropylamine and from 0.2 to 0.5 part of benzylamine.
7. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the assistant used in process step (a) has at least two general structural units (I) and (II)



where  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$  and  $\text{R}^5$  have the following meanings:

$\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$      $-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ,     $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ,     $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NH}_2$ ,     $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{OH}$ ,  
                           $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NH}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NH}_2$

$\text{R}^3$ :                H or alkyl,

$\text{R}^4$  and  $\text{R}^5$ :    H or OH.

8. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the anionic assistant is selected from the group consisting of dyes, fatliquoring agents and retanning agents

9. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the cationic or amphoteric aqueous treatment composition in process step (a) is applied only to the crust surface of the leather.

10. The use of water-soluble, cationic or amphoteric assistants for the surface treatment, in particular surface finishing, of leather.

11. The use as claimed in claim 10, wherein a cationic assistant as claimed in any of claims 4 to 7 is used.

12. The use as claimed in claim 10 or 11 for fixing dyes, pigments and/or fats on a leather surface, for reducing the dye use in solid hues, for improving the fastness of pigment coats, for the production of spotted leather, for the production of fashion effects, for the production of two-color effects by subsequent drum dyeing and/or for achieving a higher fastness level.